

# **Biblical Love**

## **A Defining Mark**

### **John 13:35**

**Theme** = True Biblical love is a (and possibly the) defining mark of a believer.

#### **What is True Biblical Love?**

##### **-Definition:**

Love, whether used of God or man, is an earnest and anxious desire for and an active and beneficent interest in the well-being of the one loved (ISBE).

##### **-Two different Greek words in the New Testament:**

**Agape** = the highest, most perfect kind of love.  
= genuine concern and interest.  
= expressed specifically by God the Father and Jesus Christ.

**Phileo** = the natural human affection, with its strong feeling, or sentiment  
= friendship type love

##### **-Best definition/description of love—I Corinthians 13:4-8**

#### **I. Biblical Love defines you because of who you love.**

**A. You have a deep love for your God** (Duet 6:4-5; Matt 22:36-38)

**B. You have a sacrificial love for Others**

1. For your brothers in Christ (I Jn 3:10; 4:21)

2. For unbelievers (Matt 22:36-39; Mk 12:29-31)

3. For your enemies (Matt 5:43, 44; Luke 6:27; Luke 6:35)

**C. You have a realistic love for yourself** (Mk 12:29-31)

#### **II. Biblical Love defines you because of what you refuse to love.**

(Phil 1:9-11 Love guided by knowledge and judgment)

**A. Biblical Love hates Evil** (Psalm 97:10)

**B. Biblical Love does not love the world's sinful system**

(I Jn 2:15-17; Jas 4:4)

#### **III. Biblical Love defines you because you can love.**

**A. Because you have tasted the benefits of Christ's love for you**

(I Jn 3:16; 4:10-11, 19)

**B. Through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit**

(I Jn 4:12-13; Gal 5:22-23)

#### **C. Through Spiritual Preparation** (I Tim 1:5)

##### **1. A Pure Heart**

= A heart that is free and clean from the impurities of sin

##### **2. A Good Conscience**

= A conscience that is clear and unhindered by past failure

##### **3. An Unfeigned Faith**

= A lifestyle of genuine, un-hypocritical faith

#### **D. Because you can love sincerely** (I Jn 3:18)

#### **So what?**

Why a lack of love?

1. You are not saved (I Jn 2:9; 4:8)

2. You are not obeying the clear commandments of God's Word

3. You are not walking in the Spirit

Will you love as Christ loved you?

**True Biblical Love is a (and possibly the) defining mark of a believer!**